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## BOOK REVIEWS.

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*L'essor industriel et commercial du peuple allemand.* By GEORGES BLONDEL. Troisième édition refondue, mise au courant et augmentée. Paris: L. Larose (Bibliothèque du musée social), 1900. 12mo, pp. xx + 502.

IN his excellent *Studies on the Rural Population of Germany and the Agricultural Crisis*,<sup>1</sup> the French economist, Georges Blondel, endeavored to familiarize his countrymen with the agricultural conditions of the German empire. He has since undertaken to study its manufactures and commerce. The results of his investigations were first read by him before the "Musée social" in Paris, in December, 1897. He published this address in 1898 in enlarged form in a little pamphlet of about 200 pages, under the title, *The Industrial and Commercial Rise of the German People*. At the request of the "Musée social," he again went back to Germany, and as a result of this new trip the second edition, published in 1899, was twice the size of the first. The third edition of 1900 is a volume of 500 pages.

Mr. Blondel begins with a description of the attention paid in late years in England, Russia, and France to the increasing competition of the German manufactures and commerce. He shows that, while in the year following the Franco-German war the foreign commerce of France considerably surpassed the German, Germany began to take the lead in 1877. He points to the fact that, about 1840, France had as many inhabitants as Germany; to the difference in the subsequent increase of the population of both countries; and to the great increase in size and number of large cities in Germany, and of the number of workers engaged in German industries and commerce. After this general view, he treats (pp. 36-114) some of the leading German industries. He thus takes up mining, foundries and machine-shops, the electrical industry, the textiles, the chemical and agricultural

<sup>1</sup> *Études sur les populations rurales de l'Allemagne et la crise agraire*, par GEORGES BLONDEL (1897); translated into German as: G. BLONDEL, *Die landwirtschaftlichen Zustände im Deutschen Reiche*. Nach dem Französischen bearbeitet von Ahn und Möllendorff. (Cologne, 1899.)

industries; he touches lightly, also, upon the clothing industry, china and glass-making, the manufacturing of furniture, toys, musical instruments, and the paper and leather industry.

In a second chapter he investigates the commercial rise of the German empire. He discusses briefly (pp. 116-135) the development of internal trade by railway, rivers, and canals, and treats to a considerable extent (pp. 135-271) the foreign commerce. After having briefly touched upon the projects of international canals, he subsequently takes up the development of the commerce of the ports, of the construction of mercantile ships, the navigation lines, the navy, and the colonial undertakings. But his treatment of the German exports and imports is somewhat superficial, his statements with regard to the commerce with Russia are contradictory, and his figures for the trade with Mexico are wrong, as are also some regarding the United States. The same may be said about the diagram which he gives later (p. 452) for the total imports and exports of the United States. However, aside from these and a few other errors, this chapter gives a good general survey of the foreign commerce of Germany, especially regarding the progress recently made in Asia and South America.

After describing the industrial and commercial rise of Germany, Mr. Blondel treats in a third and very interesting chapter (pp. 272-374), the causes of this rise. The traits of character which, according to him, have especially effected the present economic strength of Germany, and the lack of which has kept the French back, are the expansive character of the Germans, which has manifested itself in their colonizing central Europe and in their emigrations, and their spirit of association. Among other qualities which the German has and which the Frenchman lacks, he especially mentions his tenacity, his love for the industry he pursues, his interest in economic questions. He also points to his investigative character, his patience, his hard working, his moderate needs, and his retaining of his nationality. The second of the reasons explaining the economic rise of Germany he declares to be the eminently practical education given to the German youth. He describes the technical, trade, and commercial schools, the permanent industrial expositions, the depots of export samples and bureaus for commercial information, the museums of industrial art, the fairs. He especially dwells upon the application of science in German industries, the knowledge of language among

Germans, their extended and methodical traveling. Character and education, however, he says, are not the only causes which explain the industrial and commercial rise of the German people; the action of the government is a third factor. He describes the solicitude it has exhibited for commerce by the reorganization of the chambers of commerce, the improvement of the consular service, and the encouragement given to technical, trade, and commercial schools, and gives a very lucid account of the commercial and tariff politics of the German empire compared with those of France since the Franco-German war.

In a fourth chapter (pp. 375-402) he treats the causes of the inferiority of France. He sees the main reason for the small progress of its foreign commerce in the stagnation of the population, another in the narrow and inadequate methods of the French merchants in conducting business with foreign peoples. He also thinks that the protective system adhered to by France is partly responsible for the stagnation of its foreign commerce. He especially dwells upon the necessity of a change in the French system of education; it should, by laying more stress upon the industrial and commercial instruction, better prepare the young man for practical life; it should turn towards manufactures and commerce a part of the intellectual strength of France, which at present flows almost entirely to the professions and to official positions, and should tend toward increasing the spirit of initiative and responsibility in the youth. In his conclusion (pp. 403-412), he points to the detriment ensuing to the French people from its political party quarrels, but finishes after all by exhorting his countrymen not to be discouraged.

Mr. Blondel devotes a large appendix (pp. 413-484) to various special topics. He reproduces some statistics of the world's production of coal, describes the trip of William II. to Palestine, and the progress of the Germans in the Levant, the occupation of Kiautschou and the intervention of Germany in the extreme Orient, the commercial relations of Germany and the United States, and the rôle played by banks in the economic life of Germany. He gives, finally, in a few additional notes (pp. 485-498), some statistics for the year 1899.

There are two drawbacks to Mr. Blondel's book which I wish to mention. The one is a direct consequence of its development from a short paper; there are parts which are a mere collection of notes and quotations not always showing a proper regard for systematic

arrangement. The other is that, as he himself acknowledges, he depends to an almost too great degree on secondary sources. He thus quotes the census figures of the industrial population in 1882 and 1895 from the report of an ambassador. The consequence is that this table (page 27 f.) is full of mistakes, partly perhaps only misprints. These drawbacks have to be criticised the less severely as the author characterizes his book as a "simple sketch." He announces the intention of publishing soon a detailed description of the economic and social transformation of the German empire in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In view of his clear and impartial judgment, and his stupendous knowledge of the widely scattered literature, which he already displays in the book just reviewed, every student of the subject may look forward with interest to the execution of this plan.

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*Handel und Wandel.* Jahresbericht über den Wirtschafts- und Arbeitsmarkt. Für Volkswirte und Geschäftsmänner, Arbeitgeber- und Arbeiterorganisationen. Jahrgang, 1900. Herausgegeben von RICHARD CALWER. Berlin-Bern: Akademischer Verlag für sociale Wissenschaften, 1901, 8vo, pp. 240.

THIS is the first number of an annual which the editor intends shall contain a survey of all the fields of economic activity in Germany, sufficiently detailed for purposes of orientation. In it the legislator, the economist, the practical business man, and the laborer are to find the information necessary to judge fairly the economic questions by which they are confronted. Such is the intention expressed in the preface.

Little encouragement is given, however, to the exercise of independent judgment on the part of the reader. Indeed the book is really little more than a monograph by Herr Calmer on economic conditions in Germany. It contains a large mass of useful information collected from sources usually trustworthy, and from this information the writer draws his own conclusions and seldom hesitates to give them emphatic expression. In some cases the reader will find it easy to agree with him, in others his opinions will seem biased or founded on insufficient evidence.